

CITY OF MISHAWAKA



Police Department
200 North Church Street
Mishawaka, IN 46544

David A. Wood, Mayor
Kenneth L. Witkowski, Chief

September 11, 2012

Mayor David A. Wood
Board of Public Works and Safety
City Hall - 600 East Third Street
Mishawaka, Indiana 46544

Re: Police Officers of the 2nd Quarter – 2012

Dear Honorable Mayor Wood and Board Members:

I am proud to announce Cpl. Anthony Stachowiak and his K9 partner "Max," Cpl. Eric Petersen, Cpl. Ryan Kuzmich and Cpl. Jeremy Tyler as recipients for "Officers of the Second Quarter."

On **May 15, 2012**, officers were dispatched to an address on South Main Street regarding several suspicious subjects looking into garages. These subjects were located and detained by Sgt. Bryan Fox for questioning. As one subject consented to a search by Sgt. Fox he suddenly took off running. Capt. Don Weber took after the subject and lost sight of him. **Cpl. Anthony Stachowiak** heard on the radio that Capt. Weber was in foot pursuit of the suspect. Cpl. Stachowiak and K9 Max immediately responded to the location. Sgt. Fox also radioed that the subject they were looking for had possibly tossed a handgun when he initially ran from Capt. Weber. After a lengthy search checking several blocks, backyards and alleys for a track by Cpl. Stachowiak, K9 Max and fellow officers, to no avail, it was decided to cease the search; however, Cpl. Stachowiak (with K9 Max) decided to continue to search for the suspect. Eventually K9 Max showed an interest in an area between two parked vehicles. Cpl. Stachowiak then took his flashlight and lit the area of interest. He observed a male subject laying face down on the ground attempting to hide. K-9 Max quickly ran in and engaged the suspect, grabbing him on the right leg. After a brief struggle, Cpl. Stachowiak took Max off the engagement of the suspect where he was then apprehended. (After a record check it was discovered that the suspect is a convicted felon out of the State of Indiana for Auto Theft) Sgt. Fox made the location and made a positive ID on the subject that he had originally stopped to question, but not before he was assaulted by another subject of the group when he grabbed him as he tried to run. (After a record check it was discovered that this suspect is a convicted felon out of the State of Florida for Burglary.)

Emergency 911
Front Desk 574-258-1678
Investigative Division 574-258-1684
Records Division 574-258-1681

Chief 574-258-1683
Uniform Chief 574-258-1688
Traffic Division 574-259-2966
Fax 574-258-1690

The suspect apprehended by Cpl. Stachowiak and Max was later charged with Resisting Law Enforcement, Carrying a Weapon without a License and a Felon in Possession of a Handgun. He is awaiting his trial.

The other suspect who assaulted Sgt. Fox was charged with Battery with a Deadly Weapon, Battery to Law Enforcement, Resisting Law Enforcement and Carrying a Weapon without a License. He pled guilty to Battery C Felony and Possession of a Handgun; Class A Misdemeanor.

Because of Cpl. Stachowiak and K9 Max's persistence and determination in locating and capturing the subject, after a lengthy search, their efforts paid off in the end with an apprehension of the convicted felon, removing him from the streets of Mishawaka.

On **May 24, 2012**, **Cpl. Eric Petersen** responded to an Armed Robbery that had just occurred at the Family Dollar Store on East 4th Street. Dispatch gave a description of the suspect who displayed a knife during the robbery and afterwards entered a green "American Cab" mini-van. As Cpl. Petersen and fellow officers checked surrounding streets he (Cpl. Petersen) observed a green American Cab mini-van on Mishawaka Avenue. After initiating a vehicle stop and talking with the driver, it was learned that the cab driver had just dropped off two subjects at an address in Village Green. The cab driver's description of the male subject matched that of the original dispatched description. Cpl. Petersen stood by with the cab while officers responded to the suspect location where they detained two persons and brought them to the MPD for interviews. After being interviewed by a detective, the male subject was then arrested for Armed Robbery.

The subject was later charged with Armed Robbery with a Deadly Weapon. He pled guilty and was sentenced for Robbery Class B Felony and Violation of Parole in a different case.

If it hadn't been for Cpl. Petersen locating the green American Cab mini-van and gathering pertinent information on this incident, the subject never would have been located and later charged for this crime. In quoting Detective Lt. Kevin Will, "Cpl. Petersen made a smart, heads-up traffic stop that broke the case."

On **June 13, 2012**, Afternoon Shift officers were dispatched to the Quick Mart on South Main Street reference a robbery that had just occurred. A description was given as units were responding. A short time later, **Cpl. Eric Kuzmicz** advised that he had a vehicle matching the description at 12th and Brykit. While making the traffic stop on the vehicle, two suspects ran from the vehicle south from his location. Cpl. Kuzmicz radioed in a description of the suspects while he stayed with the vehicle due to it being occupied by three other suspects who were later arrested. Later that evening the two suspects were apprehended in Village Green.

Officers of the Second Quarter – continued

Page 3

Two of the five suspects were later charged with Theft and Resisting Law Enforcement. One plead for Theft B Felony and Violation of Probation. He is awaiting sentencing. The second subject is awaiting his trial in October.

Cpl. Kuzmicz is to be commended on the quick location and traffic stop of the suspect vehicle which ultimately led to the apprehension of the subjects.

On **June 14, 2012**, Midnight Shift officers were advised by dispatch that an Armed Robbery had just occurred at the Family Video Store located on Bittersweet Road. The suspect had displayed a handgun and a description of the suspect was dispatched. He was last seen running from the store. No vehicle description was given.

Cpl. Jeremy Tyler was traveling eastbound on Lincolnway approaching Capital Avenue and began spotlighting westbound traffic as he made his way to the robbery scene. As Cpl. Tyler was observing the westbound traffic, he observed a green Cadillac approaching. As the car passed, the male driver slid down in his seat in attempt to conceal himself. This action raised suspicion, so Cpl. Tyler then turned his patrol vehicle around and initiated a traffic stop. Cpl. Tyler then approached the vehicle and spoke with the driver briefly and when he asked him to exit his vehicle the man fled in his vehicle and a pursuit then ensued. The pursuit ended when the suspect crashed at Main Street and Cleveland Road. The suspect then fled on foot and after a lengthy search of the area he was apprehended. Upon search of the suspect vehicle, evidence was located that linked the suspect to the armed robbery at the Family Video. It was also learned that the suspect was wanted on outstanding Federal warrants as well.

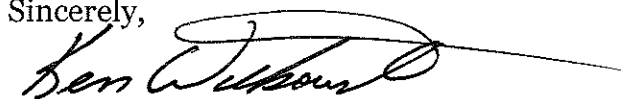
He was later charged with Robbery and Resisting Law Enforcement. He is awaiting trial.

Cpl. Tyler's actions during this incident are commendable. It was his perceptiveness and quick thinking that lead to the apprehension of this violent felon.

In each of these incidents our officers responded quickly and without hesitation. They all possess true passion, determination and gut instincts that demonstrate exceptional dedication to duty and performance.

On behalf of the Department and my Administration, I am proud and honored to present these men "Officers of the Second Quarter" for 2012.

Sincerely,



Kenneth L. Witkowski
Chief of Police

KLW:cd

Personnel Files